

**REMARKS**

This amendment is responsive to the Office Action of January 13, 2004. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

**The Office Action**

**Claims 10-13** stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Crouse.

**Claims 19-21**

Applicant notes that although the Office Action summary indicates **claims 19-21** are rejected, the Detailed Action only addresses **claims 10-13**. Therefore, Applicant's attorney held a telephonic interview with Examiner Goodman to discuss the status of **claims 19-21**. During the telephonic interview, Examiner Goodman indicated another Office Action, which specifically addresses **claims 19-21**, will be issued.

**The Claims of the Present Application Distinguish Over the Cited References**

**Claim 10** recites a nozzle adapted to direct a stream of fluid into an area where a strip leaves a roll in a direction generally opposite to a direction of travel of the strip.

Crouse discloses delivery manifold ducts **38, 39** including orifice slots **32, 33**, respectively. Although fluid passes through the slots **32, 33**, the fluid passes in a direction generally the same as a direction of travel of a trim strip **T**. Crouse fails to disclose a nozzle adapted to direct a stream of fluid in a direction generally opposite to a direction of travel of the strip, as recited in **claim 10**. Therefore, **claim 10**, along with **claims 11-13, 19, and 20** which depend therefrom, are patentable over Crouse.

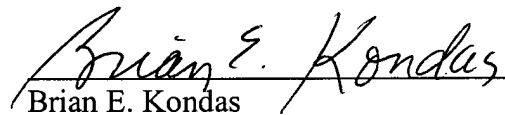
**Claim 21** was not specifically rejected under a prior art reference. Therefore, Applicant submits **claim 21** includes limitations not disclosed in the prior art and, therefore, is patentable.

**CONCLUSION**

For the foregoing reasons, it is submitted that the claims of the present application are in condition for allowance. Early notice thereof is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Brian E. Kondas", written over a horizontal line.

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